Import duty on cotton

2613. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to double the basic import duty on cotton;

(b) whether this decision would result in increase of domestic price of cotton; and

(c) if so, to what extent it has been beneficial for the domestic producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) After taking into account the requirement of the industry and the prevailing difference between the domestic and international prices, Government hikes the customs duty on import of cotton from 5% to 10% with effect from 09.01.2002. The hike in duty would restrict undesired cotton imports which in turn would be beneficial to domestic producers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at ten minutes past eleven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 18th April, 2002.